

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 TRSE-00 /056 W

-----074606 070200Z /64

R 061915Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4188

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONTEVIDEO 2603

USIA FOR IOP/M, ILA

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SHUM, UY

SUBJ: TWO URUGUAYAN AP STAFFERS DETAINED BY GOU

1. SUMMARY. TWO URUGUAYAN JOURNALISTS, DANIEL GIANELLI AND RAUL GARCES, BOTH CORRESPONDENTS IN THE MONTEVIDEO OFFICES OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, WERE DETAINED BY GOU AUTHORITIES FOR PERIODS OF 24 HOURS OVER THE PAST WEEKEND FOR HAVING FILED A STORY ABOUT THE STATE VISIT OF ARGENTINE PRESIDENT VIDELA WHICH AT LEAST THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR REPORTEDLY FOUND OBJECTIONABLE. END SUMMARY

2. ON FRIDAY EVENING, JULY 1, GIANELLI WAS ASKED TO REPORT TO GOU MILITARY AUTHORITIES, AND WAS TOLD THAT THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR, GENERAL HUGO LINARES BRUM, WAS DISTURBED OVER THE FACT THAT AP HAD FILED A REPORT ON GOU HANDLING OF THE FIDELA VISIT WHICH GIANELLI HAD TERMED "A SPECTACULAR AND UNUSUAL SECURITY OPERATION". ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM OTHER PRESS SOURCES, USIS LEARNED

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THAT THE ARGENTINE PRESS COVERING VIDELA'S VISIT EXPERIENCED CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING ACCESS TO VARIOUS OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS, INCLUDING A RECEPTION HELD AT THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY.

3. GIANELLI SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS TREATED VERY CORDIALLY BY THE MILITARY, MANY OF WHOM ARE HIS PERSONAL

FRIENDS DATING FROM HIS DAYS AS A POLICE REPORTER. HIS WIFE WAS ALLOWED TO VISIT HIM AND WAS ALSO PERMITTED TO BRING HIM SOME PERSONAL ITEMS. GIANELLI WAS TOLD, HOWEVER, THAT BECAUSE OF THE EXTREME DISPLEASURE EXPRESSED BY ONE OF THE GENERALS (LINARES BRUM), THEY WERE OBLIGED TO DETAIN HIM FOR 24 HOURS.

4. GARCES HAD ATTEMPTED TO INTERCEDE ON BEHALF OF HIS FELLOW WORKER ON SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 2, AND WAS PROMPTLY DETAINED FOR A SIMILAR 24-HOUR PERIOD, APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF HIS LONG RECORD OF DISAGREEMENTS WITH MILITARY AUTHORITIES ON WHAT CONSTITUTES "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION". GARCES WAS SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED ON SUNDAY MORNING, JULY 3. HE LATER TOLD THE IO HE WAS FORCED TO SPEND SATURDAY NIGHT IN A SMALL ROOM WITH ONLY ONE CHAIR IN IT. HE SAID THAT A SPACE HEATER WAS REMOVED FROM THE ROOM AND A WINDOW WAS DELIBERATELY LEFT OPEN THEREBY EXPOSING HIM TO THE RIGORS OF A DAMP, COLD MONTEVIDEO WINTER NIGHT.

5. GARCES FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT WHILE GIANELLI HAD FILED THE SUBJECT STORY INDEPENDENTLY, GOU AUTHORITIES SAID THAT GARCES, AS MANAGING EDITOR OF THE AP OFFICE, WAS EQUALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INDISCRETION IN THIS CASE. GARCES POINTED OUT THAT SINCE HE AND GIANELLI WORKED ON DIFFERENT SHIFTS, THIS NEW ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF GOU AUTHORITIES COULD EFFECTIVELY SHUT DOWN THE TWO-MAN AP OFFICE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, PRESS COMMENTS, JOURNALISTS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 06-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1952867
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TWO URUGUAYAN AP STAFFERS DETAINED BY GOU
TAGS: SHUM, SOPN, UY, AR, ASSOCIATED PRESS, (VIDELA, JORGE RAFAEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/587e3570-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009